

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1 and 3-23 stand in the present application, claims 1, 3, 4, 6-11, 13 and 18-23 having been amended, and claim 2 having been canceled. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and following remarks.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has objected to the Abstract of the Disclosure as not commencing on a separate sheet of paper. However, as noted in the Preliminary Amendment dated December 10, 2004, Applicants submitted an Abstract on a separate sheet of paper. Accordingly, the Examiner's objection is not understood. In any event, a copy of the Abstract has again been submitted attached to this Amendment.

The Examiner has objected to claim 18 for a number of informalities. As noted above, claim 18 has been amended and all of the technical deficiencies noted by the Examiner have been corrected.

The Examiner has also rejected claim 22 under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter. As noted above, Applicant has amended claim 22, and as amended this claim is now believed to claim statutory subject matter.

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-10, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Choquier et al. ("Choquier"), has rejected claims 11-17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Rafatjoo et al. ("Rafatjoo"), and has rejected claims 18-21 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Choquier in view of Rafatjoo. Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's §§102 and 103 rejections of the claims. Both Choquier and Rafatjoo are concerned only with managing the

membership of a group of computers. Rafatjoo manages membership by having each computer in the computer network compare its properties against those specified in a script or file sent by a central management computer. Choquier manages membership simply by keeping track of which server computers currently provide which application programs.

Applicant's invention goes further than Choquier and Rafatjoo, whether taken singly or in combination, in that it manages not only the membership of a group of computers, but also specifies, for each computer in the group, which other members of the group are its neighbors. See, present application at, inter alia, Fig. 2; page 9, line 12 to page 11, line 12. In this way, the topology of the logical network of computers suited to carrying out a given task is built and managed. By managing the topology of the logical network of computers and distributing a task in accordance with that topology better performance can be gained for performing a given computational task on the computer network. The advantages of this feature of Applicant's invention are discussed in the present specification at, inter alia, page 22, lines 21 to 33.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 3-23 patentably define over Choquier and Rafatjoo taken singly or in combination.

Applicant has also filed concurrently with this Amendment an Information Disclosure Statement providing newly cited references as well as those references in the International Search Report which the Examiner has considered but were not listed (to the extent that such references have not already been made of record in the case by the Examiner).


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Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that the application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1 and 3-23, standing in the application be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a Supplemental Response or Examiner's Amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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